

# The McKinney Act

In July, 1987, Congress passed the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act. A portion of this act specifically addresses the education of homeless children and youth. The McKinney Act provides supplemental services to help students achieve high levels of academic proficiency. Funds available under the act facilitate the enrollment, attendance, and success in school of homeless children and youth.

For further information, contact your local school district or the California Department of Education, at (916) 657-5342.



## Parents' Checklist

Use this checklist to keep track of important papers:

✓ Birth certificate

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✓ Immunizations

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✓ Medical and dental records

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✓ Report cards

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✓ Other school records

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# Is your child missing school because . . .

You move a lot?

You live in a shelter or motel?

You're on the street or homeless?



## *Schools can help!*

**McKinney Homeless Assistance Act**

All children have a right to an appropriate education, and it is the shared responsibility of parents and schools to see that each child receives it.

It is the intent of the U.S. Congress that every child of a homeless family be provided with a free, appropriate education (McKinney Act).

The California *Education Code* requires children between 6 and 18 years of age to attend school (Section 48200).

School districts need to provide services to children and youth who are homeless that are comparable to those services provided for all other students in the district.

Parents should keep records that will help schools enroll their children.

## Parents

### Help Keep Your Children in School

#### If you move often:

- Keep a copy of your child's birth certificate.
- Keep a copy of your child's school record.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Certificate
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Immunization record
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Medical and dental records
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Report cards
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Other school records
- Ask your school if you can sign a release to have information given over the telephone to an official in your child's new school.

#### Ask questions:

- If you need help filling out forms, *ask for it!*
- If you need information about health or social services, *ask for it!*
- Schools can help you find the services your child needs.

## Schools

### Provide Equal Access to a Free Appropriate Public Education

- Provide opportunities for students to achieve high levels of academic proficiency.
- Help parents complete the paperwork that ensures school attendance.
- Make educational placements in the best interest of the student.
- Provide educational services to homeless students that are comparable to those services provided for all other students.
- Maintain school records.
- Revise policies and procedures that may act as barriers to the enrollment and education of homeless children.
- Help parents gain access to needed health and social services.

